

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00559 011952Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 /063 W

----- 127679

R 011830Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9875

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

ALL NATO CAPITALS 4944

S E C R E T USNATO 0559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES AND STANDARDIZATION: ANTI-TANK WEAPONS

REF: A. USNATO 6729

B. USNATO 0069

SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD INCREASED NUMBERS AND COMMONALITY OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. US DECISION TO PRODUCE THE EUROPEAN ROLAND ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM UNDER LICENSE COULD PROVIDE KEY TO FASTER PROGRESS IN ANTI-TANK AREA. US MIGHT CONSIDER OFFERING THE EUROPEANS A SIMILAR LICENSING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE DRAGON ANTI-TANK SYSTEM. DRAGON IS BEST CANDIDATE TO PROVIDE HIGHER DENSITY OF WEAPONS SINCE ALLIES ALREADY HAVE LONGER-RANGED WEAPONS SUCH AS TOW, MILAN, AND SWINGFIRE, BUT DO NOT HAVE THE DRAGON WITH 1000-METER RANGE WHICH IS A CHEAPER WEAPON. IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS FEASIBLE, MISSION PROPOSES TO INITIATE ACTION TOWARD THAT END IN THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS IN THE DUAL CONTEXT OF STANDARDIZATION OF ALLIANCE
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 00559 011952Z

WEAPONS AND IMPROVEMENT OF ANTI-TANK CAPABILITIES. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LETTER TO EWG (REF A), MISSION CALLED ATTENTION TO GROWING

IMBALANCE IN NEW GUIDED ANTI-TANK WEAPONS IN THE CENTRAL REGION. ACCORDING TO DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE REPLIES, CENTRAL REGION ALLIES ARE BUYING OR PLANNING TO BUY LESS THAN 2000 TOW, MILAN OR SWINGFIRE WEAPONS BY 1979, WHILE THE US WILL HAVE NEARLY 9000 TOW AND DRAGON IN EUROPE AND IN REINFORCEMENT FORCES FOR EUROPE. WE EXPECT ALLIES TO INCREASE THEIR PLANNED PROCUREMENT OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, BUT HIGH COST OF TOW, MILAN, AND SWINGFIRE, TOGETHER WITH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICITS DUE TO COST OF OIL, COULD PREVENT MAJOR INCREASES.

2. RECENT US DECISION TO PRODUCE THE EUROPEAN ROLAND ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM UNDER LICENSE COULD PROVIDE THE EXAMPLE FOR A SIMILAR ADVANCE IN THE ANTI-TANK AREA. THE US MIGHT CONSIDER OFFERING THE EUROPEANS A SIMILAR LICENSING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE DRAGON ANTI-TANK SYSTEM. THE DRAGON ANTI-TANK SYSTEM COSTS ONE-THIRD AS MUCH AS THE LONGER-RANGED TOW, AND EVEN LESS BY COMPARISON WITH MILAN AND SWINGFIRE, YET ITS 1000 METER RANGE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MANY LIKELY TARGETS IN ANY CONFLICT IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

3. IF THE US COULD DEVISE A LICENSING AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH ONE OF THE ALLIES, SUCH AS THE UNITED KINGDOM, COULD PRODUCE DRAGON FOR THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A MORE REASONABLE BALANCE IN ANTI-TANK WEAPONS ALONG THE NATO FRONT. IN ADDITION, SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD HELP BUILD UP MOMENTUM FOR CONTINUING PROGRESS IN STANDARDIZATION OF CRITICAL WEAPONS. IF WASHINGTON APPROVES AND CAN DEVELOP PRACTICAL PROPOSAL, MISSION COULD INTRODUCE IN THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS IN THE CONTEXT OF STANDARDIZATION OF ALLIANCE WEAPONS AND IMPROVEMENT OF ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY.
BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO00559
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750286/abbrzhyj.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 6729 B. USNATO 0069
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASIC ISSUES AND STANDARDIZATION: ANTI-TANK WEAPONS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE
ALL NATO CAPITALS

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006